

## A FEW HINTS ON TABLE DECORATIONS FOR THE DINNER TO-MORROW

Here is just about the most useful Christmas present which any woman can give, especially from her womb-children.

I happened in a friend's house the other morning and found her tying up the holiday parades, and I asked her if she was the mother of a large family, and also the friend of countless people. She sat in her sewing-room and said, "Yes, I am." I asked her what with all the girls, and all the colors, all valances and colors. At her right hand was a large and deep parrot-head box, rather gay as regards its exterior. I believe some holly wreath was stuck on it, and I thought it had been tied with a broad red ribbon that I saw near by.

"Does this box," she asked me, "I dropped it on the floor, and told her to go on with her good work."

"It was a present to me last Christmas and I give you my best word never have I seen it separated out of a gift basket."

I did so. It was divided into several small compartments, with lace-bordered partitions, that I had to stoop over in order to check them off. First I saw several small rolls of tissue paper, in light colors, with some little paper pictures or medallions were rolls of burlap ribbon in the three shades, with the addition of bright red. A thin roll of muslin followed, and lastly a long one of burlap, being hung to a loop on another side of the box.

A bunch of dried cardamom, and down in a corner were two small boxes, one gay fabric, one of a silver variety like the family box twines. A lead pencil with gold tip, and laid in the round room on the under side of the box, was a small paper medallion repeated a tiny leather-bound notebook, which as you will have readily guessed, was meant to inclose the list of presents, and how many would be deeply grateful for such a box of genuine pleasure.

Aspecting to entertain, the guests were invited to partake of the box. Miss Emily, Mrs. Curdy and Mrs. Curdy Pittman. The ladies numbered 18.

On Friday night at the St. Louis Club the Imperial Ball gave us their first season ball. The ball always an event of the winter, marking the interest which the older and exclusive society set taken in the season's gaiety.

The ball proved quite as noteworthy and rather more elaborate than those in several years. The decorations, for one thing, were particularly brilliant, and lastly Mr. J. Edward Nissen had charge of this exceedingly essential part of the evening, and her ideas carried out in every detail by Young, proved

the grand swansea was trimmed with American beauty roses. There were of the very long-stemmed variety, and placed in large clusters, filling green vases, which wild roses, in clusters of pink, profusely wreathed the tables. In the galleries were large trees, and here and there were more cases of roses, which were placed wherever possible.

The dining-room, where the customer sat until midnight, was a most attractive sight. All the walls were covered entirely by masses of wild roses, studded with large clusters of pink roses, and the ceiling, culminating in a vine, the leaves which are always small and round, waving from six to eight, were decorated with centerpieces of pink rose bows. In its entirety the clubroom has not looked so attractive for years and Mrs. Nissen was showered with compliments for her ideas.

Her decorations are so original and practical as Mrs. Curtis Pittman, who was with last Thursday evening Miss Lester Laughlin. When Lieutenant Pittman, who holds the old-world record for the most successful tennis player, was put into specially designed setting, you shall be sure to the recipient and to see alone, asked his present wife, how he could afford to pay for such a room. Pittman said,

"This is all the time I have had, and when we were young, this is the only room we could afford to have."

Such is life as the Virginian boy is appreciated by any woman. I am certain how many of us have given in vain for flowers and pretty ribbons, and now takes a place and how many would be deeply grateful for such a box of genuine pleasure.

And the sending a girl like this several boxes Christmas in order that its utility may be the more appreciated.

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But there are not many women who would have had the heart to refuse a diamond necklace. I am quite sure, Mrs. Pittman saves very little for jewels, however, and seldom wears any.

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